

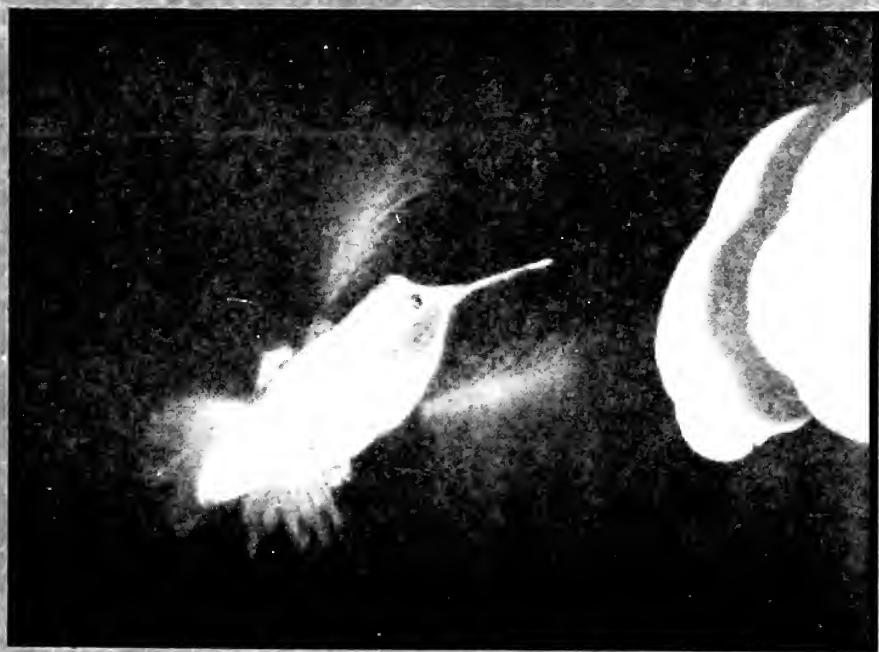
# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Fall 1986

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *IOWA BIRD LIFE* and *I.O.U. NEWS* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

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Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*—send self-addressed stamped envelope to the Editor of Iowa Bird Life for order form.

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# BIRDING POOL 19 FROM KEOKUK

ROBERT CECIL



Pool 19 is a wide area of the Mississippi River formed by Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk and extends north past Fort Madison. When the dam was built in 1913 the water of the area, known as the Des Moines Rapids, was raised 28 feet, allowing for the first time river navigation north from Keokuk.

Pool 19 is a major migration stopover for waterfowl of all types. The predominant species, Canvasback and Lesser Scaup, number up to two million birds in spring and fall. This is a particularly good location for diving ducks in March and November, including the rare Oldsquaw, Greater Scaup, and all three scoters. Herring and Ring-billed gulls, in groups of 1,000 or more, are the most abundant of the gulls and terns, but Franklin's and Bonaparte's gulls and Caspian, Forster's, and Black terns also move through, sometimes in large numbers. Common Tern may be found in May and September, and Glaucous Gull may be found as the ice moves in or out. Bald Eagles winter in numbers up to 450 and are most abundant around the dam; they begin arriving in late October and leave when the ice is gone. Osprey are present in migration, and an occasional Merlin or Peregrine Falcon may be sighted. Swallows congregate by the thousands in late August and September.

This article will describe birding locations along the river from Keokuk north to Fort Madison and back down the Illinois side.

The river front below the dam is the best place for eagles and is also good for gulls, terns, and Osprey. From downtown Keokuk, follow Main Street toward the river; just before reaching the bridge, jog right or left on 2nd Street, and continue downhill to the river. The road along the river goes downstream for several blocks, offering good viewing (1).

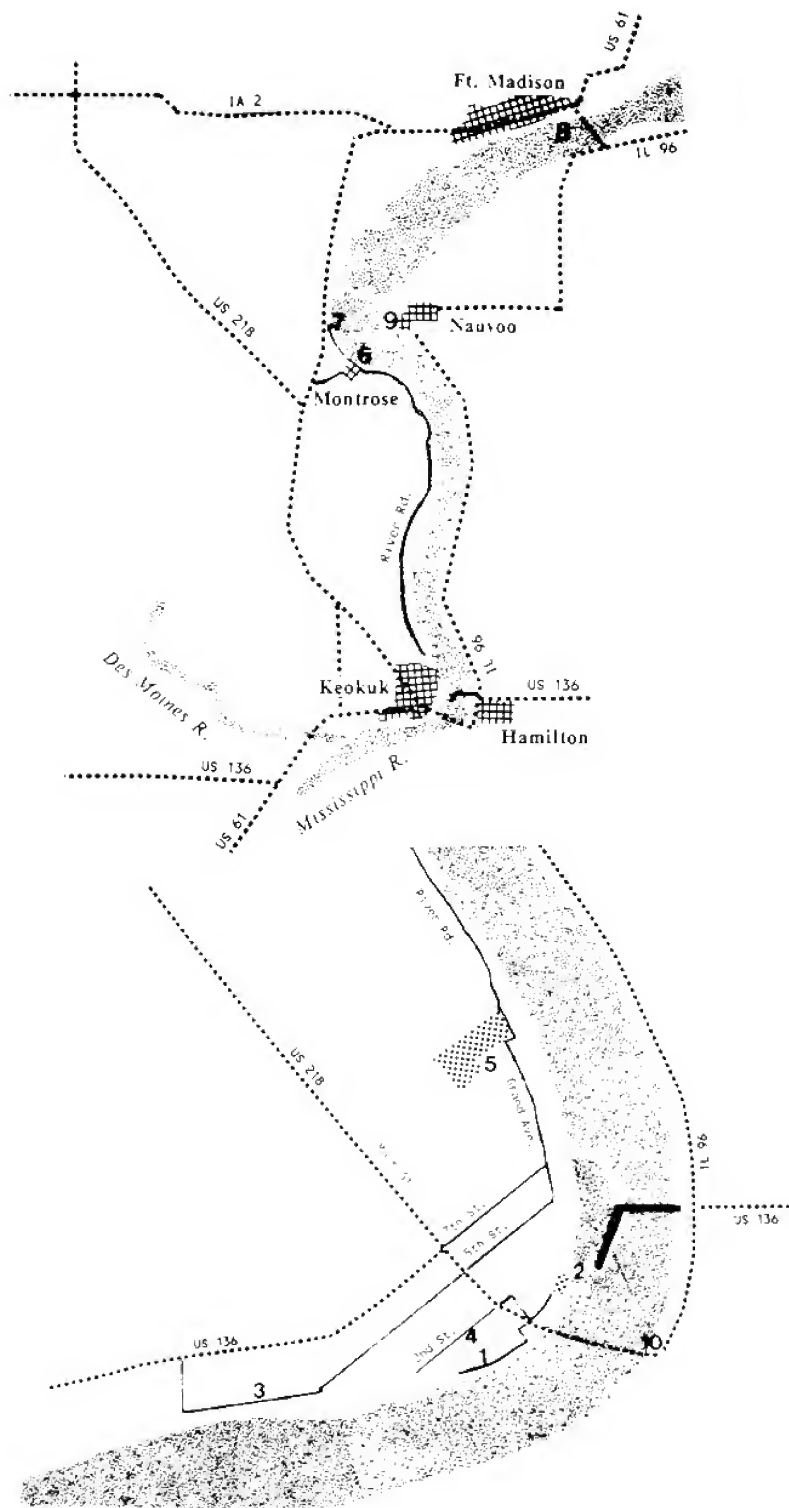
To get to the dam and powerhouse (2), return upstream along the river; after passing under the bridge, cross the railroad tracks and keep to the right until reaching the Corps of Engineers parking lot. Cross the lock on the catwalk, and follow the concrete walkway toward the powerhouse. At the gate (open 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays) turn right or left on another concrete walkway for an excellent view of the large expanse of water below the dam.

Another access to the river may develop if the old bridge is opened for observation.

To reach Keokuk's crow roost (3), return to Main Street and go south for about a mile on 5th Street to an industrial complex; the road veers left then angles right as it becomes Commercial Avenue. At dusk, look for crows along the bluff as they arrive in huge strings from Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. The crow roost develops in mid-October, with thousands of birds there by early November and up to 25,000 by Christmas time.

From mid-June to mid-August, Purple Martins congregate in Keokuk, reaching a peak of 5,000 by early August. They can be seen at Riverview Park on 2nd Street two blocks south of Main Street (4); at night they roost in maple trees on the river front between the old and new bridges.

The best birding route north from Keokuk to Montrose follows River Road. To reach the beginning of River Road, go north from Main Street up 5th Street. At the T intersection turn left on Grand Avenue, passing many of Keokuk's fine old homes on the way to Rand Park (5). The scenic overlook of the park is too distant for good viewing of birds on the river. At the north end of the park begin the long downhill



grade of River Road. Half way down on the river side there is a partially hidden turn-off. You may want to park here and bird back along the brushy bluff for passerines.

River Road is currently narrow, rough, and offers little parking, no public access except for the road and railroad tracks, and poor views of the river. Despite these conditions, waterfowl, gulls, and eagles can be seen and passerines can be found on the hillsides. There is a small marshy area on the west side of the road 1.3 miles from Rand Park. Take advantage of the open views of the river in the 10 miles from Rand Park to Montrose, watching for traffic as you bird.

There are several sharp turns in the small town of Montrose, so stay toward the river. (If you are coming from the north, you must turn toward the river on the south side of town to avoid ending up on Middle Road.) In the center of town at the three-way stop, go toward the river, crossing the tracts and levy to the river access (6). In season this may be a good spot to view waterfowl, gulls, and eagles.

Go north 0.3 miles on River Road from the stop signs to a bridge with marsh on both sides and cemetery to the west. Look for marsh birds, wintering snipe, and passerines in the cemetery.

One mile north of the marsh, at the intersection of River Road and U.S. 61, is the Linger Longer Rest Stop (7), the best location on Pool 19 for viewing the rafts of waterfowl in migration. With your scope you may be able to pick out rare ducks among the 50,000 birds present. Although the expanse of river to the north harbors many duck blinds, the ducks have plenty of room to avoid the hunters.

For a mile north of the rest stop on U.S. 61 the road follows the river and has wide enough shoulders for stopping. From here to Fort Madison there are several privately owned, inaccessible wetlands on the river side of the highway. Follow U.S. 61 to downtown Fort Madison. At 6th Street, turn into Riverfront Park (8), where the river can be scanned for several blocks. Open water in winter often harbors Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser.

To bird the Illinois side of Pool 19, which offers better access than the Iowa side, follow U.S. 61 north to the bridge and cross to Niota, Illinois. On the way check the shallow water on the south side of the road just past the bridge. Turn south at the T intersection on Illinois 96, also known as the Great River Road, and go 8 miles to Nauvoo.

To reach the Nauvoo Flat Wildlife Refuge (9), follow the highway through the business district and down the hill. (You also may want to visit the museums and shops in this historic Mormon settlement.) The river may be viewed to the north from an observation area and to the south from the shoulders of the road. During nesting season and again in the fall, the many Wood Ducks here are quite tame.

South of Nauvoo, the excellent road with many turnouts offers leisurely viewing of waterfowl and other birds on the river. Near Hamilton, parking is more difficult, although there may be many birds on the river.

To return to the Mississippi River bridge at Keokuk, turn west on U.S. 136 just outside of Hamilton. To check the Montebello Access (10) on the Illinois side, turn north just east of the railroad tracks and just before reaching the bridge. Eagle viewing is excellent as the birds roost overhead, although they are easily flushed, especially when you get out of the car. A precarious gravel road follows the river a short distance toward the dam; if you are able to drive in, you may have to back out. A closer approach may be made to the dam during low water by taking a difficult walk from a washout at the end of the road, which leads across a grassy flood plain toward the dam. Return to Keokuk by crossing the bridge from Montebello.

*327 6th St., Keokuk, IA 52632*

# IDENTIFICATION OF FERRUGINOUS HAWK

BARBARA L. WILSON

The Ferruginous Hawk, *Buteo regalis*, is a very large buteo of arid western plains, where it nests mainly on cliffs and hillsides. Hunting is specialized to relatively large prey such as rabbits, gophers, and prairie dogs. The nesting populations that are nearest to Iowa are in far western Nebraska and the western two-thirds of South Dakota.

Ferruginous Hawks visit Iowa occasionally, but their status in the state is unclear. Although over 40 sightings have been reported for Iowa since 1900, only a handful are supported by sufficient evidence to verify the identification. Some Ferruginous Hawks may be overlooked because of their similarity to the Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*, and some Red-tails, especially Krider's Red-tails, may be incorrectly identified as Ferruginous Hawks. Based on data from other states, Ferruginous Hawks would be most likely to occur in Iowa in spring and fall, with winter also a possibility. Summer records would be very unusual.

This article will point out some of the pitfalls involved in the identification of Ferruginous Hawks and discuss useful field marks. Although I have limited personal experience with this species, I have reviewed all of the records available from Iowa and gleaned information from several sources (Clark 1981, Clark in press, Eckert 1982, Farrand 1983). I corresponded with William Clark about the Iowa records, and he made several helpful suggestions concerning the manuscript.

## DESCRIPTION

*General Characteristics.* Ferruginous Hawks are large, robust buteos with relatively long wings and tail. The wings look a little narrow because of their length. In the perched position the wing tips approach or reach the tip of the long tail. The wide, high bill gives the bird a large-headed, almost eagle-like profile. This species usually flaps slowly or soars with its wings held flat or in a shallow V. It rarely hovers.

The tarsus (lower leg above the toes) is feathered, a characteristic shared only in our area by Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle. The feathered tarsi are difficult to see in the field. Perched hawks generally squat, so that leg and belly feathers cover the tarsi and sometimes the feet. It is easy to consider the tarsi feathered when, in fact, they are not visible. Further, tarsal feathers are short, so it can be difficult to judge if they are present or not. The color of the tarsi may be helpful: yellow or green for scaled tarsi; white, rust, or dark for feathered tarsi. Yellow scales and white feathers may be difficult to tell apart.

The wing from above shows a flashy white patch in the base of the primaries and sometimes the outer secondaries. The white forms an oval or curved patch that is perpendicular to the axis of the flying bird's body.

In hand, identification can be made readily by the combination of feathered tarsi and wide, high bill. At the angle of the mouth, the distance across the chin is 1.7 to 1.9 inches as compared to 1.35 to 1.45 for the Rough-legged Hawk (Roberts 1932).

*Light Morph.* The more common light morph has a brown head with whitish streaks, usually with a darker stripe through the eye. The cheeks are white or heavily streaked with white. The back and upper wing coverts are brown in immatures, often with white and/or rusty mottling. The adult shows much rusty coloration on the back and, especially, on the shoulders.



The underparts are white, often strikingly so. Some birds have a band of rusty bars (adults) or dark spots (immatures) across the belly which are similar to that seen on Red-tailed Hawks. Juveniles have a cinnamon wash on the breast, but this would be worn off before they could reach Iowa. A dark flank patch lateral to the leg is often noticeable on immatures. The underwing of immatures is all white except for dark tips on the primaries and a narrow black crescent at the wrist. The underwing coverts of adults have rusty patches. They lack the dark patagial stripe on the leading edge of the underwing that is found on Red-tailed Hawks.

The legs appear dark in adults since they are barred with rust and white or rust and black feathers. The legs contrast with the light belly, forming a distinctive V in flight. Immatures have white feathers covering the legs.

The adult's unbarred tail is white, pale rust, gray, or a combination of these colors. Often it is white with a broad rusty band on the distal half. There may be some black mottling, but no black bars. The immatures tail is white with dusky gray bands distally.

*Dark Morph.* Dark morph birds are solidly dark, except for the flight feathers. Adults have rufous on the back and shoulders. The flight feathers are similar to the light morph; therefore, from below the tips of the secondaries are gray. The tips of the secondaries are black in other dark buteos. The tail is uniformly gray, but may look lighter from below. Immatures from below may show a smudgy-gray terminal tail band. The underwing coverts are dark with a distinctive white comma at the wrist. Less than five percent of Ferruginous Hawks are dark morphs.

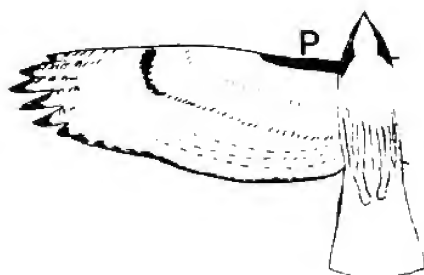
## SIMILAR SPECIES

In Iowa, Ferruginous Hawks are most likely to be confused with Red-tailed Hawks, especially atypical Red-tails. Features that favor the light morph of the Ferruginous Hawk over a typical Eastern Red-tailed Hawk include large size, long wings, all-white underparts (often), light head with white cheeks, long tail, extensive white in an unbanded tail (often), feathered tarsi, and lack of dark patagial stripe. Many Red-tails, however, are not typical (Lish and Voelker 1986), so that any field mark by itself is not diagnostic. There are individual Red-tails of nearly all the races that have all-light underparts and a white base to an unbanded rusty tail. A white patch can be seen on the upper surface of the wing of many Red-tails.

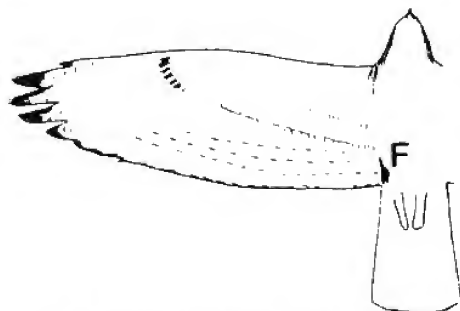
Krider's Red-tailed Hawk presents the greatest problems. This subspecies is a very light form that nests in the western plains. It may have a light-colored head (often including the cheeks), extensive white in the tail, and white wing patches. It may also lack the dark patagial stripe that is otherwise a good mark for separating Ferruginous from Red-tailed Hawk. The white patch on the upper surface of the wing of a Krider's may be identical to that of a Ferruginous, but in many Krider's Hawks the patch includes the primary wing coverts and runs through the inner primaries almost to the tip of these feathers, forming a light trapezoid parallel to the body of a flying bird. The pale tail of a Krider's Hawk usually has three or more dark bars, compared to the unbanded or vaguely gray-banded tail of the Ferruginous Hawk.

Despite these difficulties, Ferruginous Hawks can be distinguished from any Red-tailed Hawk. Experienced observers can distinguish the species by shape. In addition to the long, apparently narrow wing, the wing of a Ferruginous has a straighter trailing edge than that of a Red-tailed Hawk. In Iowa where the species is rare and few observers are experienced with it, identification should be based on all of the field marks, not just shape.

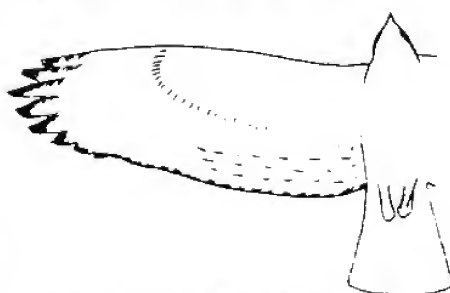
UNDERPARTS OF HAWKS



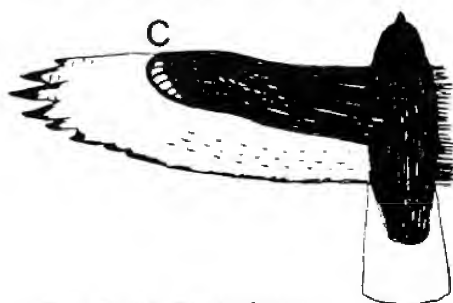
Typical Eastern Red-tailed



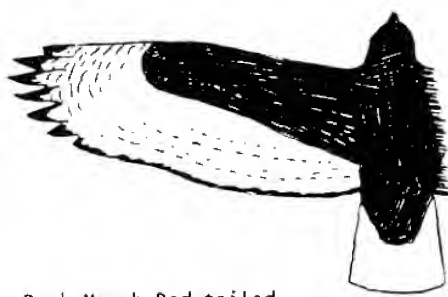
Imm. Light Morph Ferruginous



Very Light Krider's Hawk

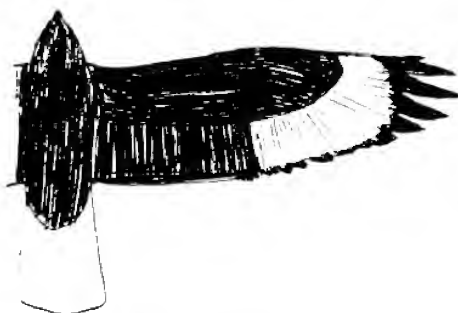


Dark Morph Ferruginous

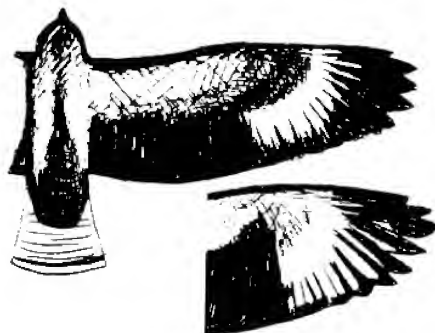


Dark Morph Red-tailed

UPPERPARTS OF HAWKS



Ferruginous



Krider's Hawk

Underparts and Upperparts of Ferruginous and Red-tailed Hawks (C=white comma, F=flank mark, P=patagial stripe)

Several other features are quite helpful for identifying light-morph birds. The feathered tarsi of the Ferruginous are distinctive if seen well. In the adult the dark legs contrast with the white body, and in the immature the dark mark on the flanks is useful. Any Red-tailed Hawk that is as white below and on the head as a Ferruginous should have extensive white mottling on the back and wing coverts; a Ferruginous would be more uniform on the back and upper wing.

A buteo with the combination of a pink or white tail and white legs is a Red-tailed Hawk. A Ferruginous with a pink tail is an adult and, therefore, has dark legs. Buteos with distinctive tail bars are not Ferruginous Hawks. Dark patagial stripes also exclude this species.

Dark morph Ferruginous Hawks resemble dark Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. Ferruginous can be distinguished from Red-tailed Hawk by shape, by the white comma at the wrist, by lack of barring in the tail, and by lighter color to the underside of the secondaries. Ferruginous can be distinguished from Rough-legged Hawk, when seen well, by the lack of black on the undersurface of the secondaries and tail. A real effort should be made to see the white comma at the wrist, because the dark morphs of these two species are quite similar.

## DISCUSSION

Ferruginous Hawks in Iowa should be identified with great care, using as many field marks as possible. Birds that are seen for a short time or at a great distance usually should be left unidentified. Birders are likely to suspect Ferruginous Hawk when they see a large light-colored buteo or note flashy white patches in the wings. More needs to be seen to identify this species in Iowa. At close range, the tarsi may be visible, and, if seen well on a light morph bird, are sufficient for identification. The contrasting dark legs against white body on an adult light morph and the white comma at the wrist in dark morphs are also definitive, as are the rufous back and shoulder of all adults. Other characteristics that should be noted include shape, color, and pattern of underwing coverts (including patagial stripe), pattern of secondaries as seen from below, dark flank patch, face pattern, degree of mottling on upperparts, and color and pattern of tail.

To prepare for the identification of Ferruginous Hawks, Iowa birders should carefully examine Red-tailed Hawks. Note how the wind and behavior affect the bird's shape. Watch for unusual color variations. Write down a description. This should decrease the tendency to be fooled by Krider's and other Red-tailed Hawk variants.

Improvement in our knowledge of the status of Ferruginous Hawk in Iowa will require careful descriptions of sightings of this species. Each sighting of this species in Iowa should be documented and sent to the appropriate Field Report Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

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*Rt 1, Box 41, Hastings, IA 51540*

## IDENTIFICATION OF WESTERN AND CLARK'S GREBES

JAMES J. DINSMORE

Close readers of the recent list of Iowa birds (I.O.U. Records Committee 1986) will note that a sixth species of grebe, Clark's Grebe, is now on the Iowa list. The first Clark's Grebe for Iowa was recorded at Cone Marsh on 5 May 1983 (*IBL* 53:48, 54:38), and another was found at Big Creek State Park on 12 Oct 1985 (Dinsmore 1986). Those who have been keeping up with recent field guides (e.g., Farrand 1983) will recognize this newcomer as the light phase of the more familiar Western Grebe. As long ago as 1858, it was known that the Western Grebe had both light and dark color phases (Ratti 1981). Although first described as two species, these forms were long considered to be just different color phases of a single species. Recent detailed studies of these grebes have revealed that the two phases usually do not interbreed and hence in the most recent American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, they are treated as separate species.

Three characteristics generally are used to identify these two species, once the bird has been identified as being a "Western-type" grebe. In breeding plumage, the most obvious characteristic is the extent of the black feathers of the face. In the Western Grebe (formerly dark phase), black extends to or below the eye so that the eye itself is surrounded by dark feathers (Fig. 1). In the Clark's Grebe (formerly light phase Western Grebe), the black feathers of the face end above the eye, so that the eye is completely surrounded by white feathers (Fig. 1). A second characteristic is bill color. In Western Grebes, the bill is greenish-yellow and appears dark, while the bill of Clark's Grebe is orange-yellow and appears light (Figs. 2, 3). A third characteristic is flank color. The flanks of Clark's Grebe tend to appear lighter, but this is hard to see (Ratti 1981). Flank color is probably most useful in picking out birds to look at more closely. Although many other characteristics have been looked at (Storer and Nuechterlein 1985), head pattern and bill color seem to be the two that best identify the two species.

All these characteristics must be used with caution. The birds are hard to approach, so that often they are viewed at great distances. They often sleep with their heads tucked out of sight, and, when foraging, they dive frequently, providing only brief views. Viewing angle, lighting, and water glare also can influence what you think you are seeing. The differences in facial color will almost always identify the two species during the breeding season. Spring birds in Iowa should be easy to identify if seen well. However, these grebes molt from July to September so that during the non-breeding season, Western Grebes may have some white feathers in front of and around the eye, and Clark's Grebes may have dark feathers down to and including the eye, producing birds with plumages intermediate between the typical breeding plumages.



*Figure 1. Clark's and Western grebes in breeding plumage. Note white around eye and lighter bill in Clark's Grebe.*



*Figure 2. Western Grebe, non-breeding plumage, San Diego Bay, CA, 25 January 1986. Note dark bill, dark flanks, and dark around eye with white loreal mark. Photo by T. H. Kent.*



*Figure 3. Clark's Grebe, non-breeding plumage, San Diego Bay, CA, 25 January 1986. Note light bill, light flanks, and white at and above eye. Photo by T. H. Kent.*

In their study of museum specimens, Storer and Nuechterlein (1985) found that about 4 percent of immature dark-billed (Western) grebes had white in front and above the eye (i.e., facial plumage resembling Clark's Grebe), and about 17 per of immature light-billed (Clark's) grebes had considerable dark over the eye (i.e., facial plumage resembling Western Grebe). For non-breeding adults these percentages were 3 and 15, respectively. In another set of frozen specimens from California, which were examined by the same authors, there were fewer immature and non-breeding Westerns with white over the eye and almost 50 percent of Clark's with dark down to the eye.

Most Iowa fall records occur from late October to mid-November and could include birds with intermediate-type facial plumage. Since we do not know the true frequency of these species in Iowa, we cannot determine the likelihood of a bird with white above the eye being a Western; if the birds we see are from the northern Great Plains where Westerns greatly outnumber Clark's, the possibility of error could be quite high. With what we know now, some immatures and non-breeding adults should be left unidentified as to species. Thorough documentation including careful assessment of bill color and shade, exact description of black and white feathering around and in front of the eye (preferably with a drawing), and impression of the degree of light and dark on the sides of a swimming bird are needed to evaluate the identification of birds seen in Iowa.

Why two species? After 100 years, why were these two color phases considered to represent separate species? To biologists, species usually are defined on the basis of whether individuals will and do interbreed. If two populations do not regularly interbreed under natural conditions, they are considered separate species (e.g., Eastern and Western meadowlarks) while if they regularly interbreed, they are considered to be a single species (e.g., yellow-shafted and red-shafted forms of the Northern Flicker). The situation with the grebes is confusing because it is not uncommon to have both color forms breeding in the same area, and only after close study was it recognized that each form nearly always bred only with others of the same color phase. For instance, in Utah only 1.2% of 1,185 pairs were mixed and fewer than 1% of 606 pairs in California and Oregon were mixed (Ratti 1979). Thus the birds seem to have some means of distinguishing the two phases. Detailed behavioral studies by Nuechterlein (1981) show that, while visual courtship displays of the two color phases seemed identical, the birds respond differently to certain calls given during courtship. These calls are single-noted in Clark's Grebe and double-noted in Western Grebe. Nearly always, birds responded only to the advertising call given by their own color phase, suggesting that these responses to vocalizations are the key to preventing the two phases from interbreeding.

Another factor that makes this situation complex is the fact that the two color phases often occur on the same marshes, an extremely unusual situation for two such similar species. In general, dark phase birds predominate in more northern areas, but much needs to be learned about their distribution and migration. Accurate records by birders can add valuable information to further our knowledge on the distribution of these two species.

Steve Dinsmore and Tom Kent provided helpful comments on the manuscript.

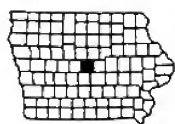
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# SPRING WARBLER MIGRATION AT BROOKSIDE PARK IN AMES

PAUL MARTSCHING



Perhaps the most notable spring bird migration is that of the warblers. Only a few daily counts at single locations have been done, including those in Illinois (Graber et al. 1983) and Pennsylvania (Leberman 1984). From 1982 through 1986 I made daily counts each spring to determine peak dates of migration and yearly fluctuations in numbers of the commoner species of warblers in Brookside Park in central Iowa. I also recorded arrival and departure dates in the years 1972, 1975-1977, and 1979-1981.

## METHODS

Brookside Park contains 86 acres of mostly floodplain on Squaw Creek between 6th and 13th streets in Ames. About half of the park has no undergrowth and is open with numerous large trees including hackberry, black walnut, ash, Kentucky coffeebean, hickory, and oak. The other half has thick undergrowth where the predominant species are hackberry, box elder, soft maple, elm (mostly small), ash, and mulberry.

Each day from late March through early June I walked a path approximately 2,800 meters (9,100 feet) long. Sixty percent of the route is in the area with undergrowth, and forty percent in the open area. Half of the open area is near the bank of Squaw Creek, which has a narrow fringe of undergrowth.

Non-singing birds were identified about 30 meters on either side of the path in the open area and 10-15 meters from the path in the undergrowth. Singing males were identified much farther from the path.

All numbers are given for one hour of observation per day. One hour gave reasonable coverage, except when there were large numbers of warblers. On those days, if I had only one hour to observe, I tried to count both in the undergrowth and the open areas in the same ratio as for the entire path; if I had more time, I covered the entire path and factored the data to one hour of coverage. For example, the 164 Yellow-rumped Warblers counted in two hours on 29 April 1982 was reduced to 82.

My data for first and last dates are from 1972, 1975-1977, and 1979-1986. For many species only 8 to 11 of the 12 years were used. I did not bird often before 1979, and I sometimes missed several days in a row. If I first saw a species after having missed several days, the record was not used because I did not know whether I would have seen it earlier if I had gone out every day. Dates for peak numbers, yearly counts, and hourly counts were from 1982 through 1986 when I made daily surveys.

All warblers were migrants, except perhaps for Common Yellowthroats, the only species that nests in the park.

## RESULTS

The median arrival (A), peak (P), and departure (D) dates for 22 species of warblers are shown in Table 1 along with the range for these dates over the years. The less-than and greater-than symbols show the range for arrival, peak, and departure dates (a vertical bar is used where the extremes of the ranges fall on the same day). For example, the arrival dates for Northern Parula ranged from 17 April to 10 May, peak

Table 1. Range (<...>) and Median Dates for Warbler Arrival (A), Peak Numbers (P), and Departure (D) at Brookside Park in Spring

	April 1111111112	222222223	May 1	1111111112	2222222233	June
	45678901234567890	1234567890	1234567890	1234567890	12345678901	12345678
Golden-winged			<...A..	. .....D.	...>	
Tennessee			<...A...<..	>...P.....	...>...<..D.	.....>
Orange-crowned	<... ..A..>.<..	...P.<...>	....D..>			
Nashville		<...A. ....>	..P.. ..>...<..	....D....>		
N. Parula	<... ..	...A...<..	.P.. ...D.	...>		
Yellow		<...A...	..P...<..	....D.....>		
Chestnut-sided		<...A..	<..P..<..	....D....>		
Magnolia		<...A..>	<...P....	<...D....>		
Yellow-rumped	<..A..>.....	.....<..P.	..>...<..	....D..>		
Black-throated Green	<.... ..A<...>	P. ..P.<...>	D.....>			
Blackburnian		<..A	<...>P.. .. ..D>			
Palm	<....A.<..	...><..D..>	..			
Bay-breasted			<.. A...>.<... ..D....>			
Blackpoll		<...A..	<..P.....	<..D.....>		
Black-and-white	<..A.< ..>	...>..P... ..>...<..	....D.....>			
American Redstart		<..A...	.....P..>..	...<..D....	.....>	
Ovenbird	<.....	A<...>....	P.....>	<...D.....	.....>	
N. Waterthrush	< .....	..A...P< ..>	...D.. ..	..>		
Mourning			<.. ..A...>..	..<...P.<..	>..D..>	
Common Yellowthroat	<.... ..A...>.< ..	...P..>	...<..D..>			
Wilson's		<...A..	.....P.. .. ...D>			
Canada			< .....	A.< >P><...D.. ..>		

dates ranged from 8 to 15 May, and departure dates ranged from 15 to 24 May. Median dates were used to reduce the effect of unusually early or late birds, such as the Northern Parula on 17 April 1982 (next earliest date was 27 April) and the Common Yellowthroat on 26 April 1983 (earliest by a week).

Ten species were seen fewer than ten times as follows:

Blue-winged: 5, 7 May 1975, 8 May 1976, 7 May 1977, 15 May 1980, 5 May 1985.

Cape May: 9, 12 May 1976, 13, 14 May 1982, 8, 11 May 1986.

Pine: 18 May 1983, 24 May 1984.

Cerulean: 11 May 1972, 7 May 1983.



Table 2. Yearly, Highest, and Hourly Numbers of Spring Warblers and Migration Interval at Brookside Park in Spring

	Mean/ Year	Highest		Migration Interval Mean Days (Range)
		Daily Count, Yearly Range	Mean Number/Hour*, Yearly Range	
Golden-winged	4	0-2	0-1.0	10 (1-19)
Tennessee	317	10-91	3.4-22.0	26 (22-24)
Orange-crowned	71	2-26	0.9-5.3	21 (19-23)
Nashville	166	15-56	5.3-12.9	26 (18-36)
N. Parula	8	2-5	0.1-0.9	16 (1-29)
Yellow	26	4-5	0.8-2.2	21 (16-28)
Chestnut-sided	39	4-16	1.7-2.8	20 (12-26)
Magnolia	35	4-13	1.2-3.0	18 (15-25)
Yellow-rumped	288	26-82	4.6-20.8	36 (31-42)
Black-thrt Green	12	2-5	0.5-0.7	21 (12-32)
Blackburnian	8	2-4	0.3-0.9	16 (11-20)
Palm	5	2-3	0-1.0	14 (10-18)
Bay-breasted	3	0-2	0.4-1.0	10 (2-16)
Blackpoll	56	5-15	2.0-3.9	21 (16-23)
Black-and-white	34	4-8	0.9-2.6	27 (15-37)
Am. Redstart	54	5-10	2.3-2.7	24 (20-34)
Ovenbird	36	4-8	1.4-1.8	27 (22-35)
N. Waterthrush	8	2-3	0.1-0.9	15 (4-39)
Mourning	20	2-7	0.9-1.5	19 (13-23)
Com Yellowthroat	37	3-8	0.9-1.7	26 (20-35)
Wilson's	28	4-9	1.0-1.8	20 (16-23)
Canada	6	2-3	0.4-0.8	14 (7-18)

\*mean number/hour during the migration interval for that year.

Prothonotary: 2-7 May 1972.

Worm-eating: 7 May 1977, 19 May 1982, 22 May 1983, 28 Apr 1984, 4 May 1985.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 19 Apr 1980, 5 Apr 1981.

Kentucky Warbler: 18 May 1976, 18 May 1982, 13 May 1986.

Connecticut: 25 May 1976, 24 May 1980, 20 May 1983, 27, 30 May 1985, 12 May 1986.

Hooded: 26 Apr 1981.

In some years I did not differentiate between Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes. The 20 April 1985 Northern Waterthrush was identified by song. In Table 1, May birds were assumed to be Northerns. The median arrival dates range from 7 April (Yellow-rumped) to 18 May (Canada). Seasonally, the median arrival dates showed the following pattern: April-5 species; 1-5 May-6 species; 6-10 May-8 species; and after 10 May-3 species.

The migration interval for each species for each year was determined by counting the days from first arrival to last departure. The mean migration intervals (Table 2) ranged from 10 days (Golden-winged, Bay-breasted) to 36 days (Yellow-rumped). The next longest durations were for Tennessee, Nashville, Black-and-White, and

Ovenbird, all taking 26 to 27 days to pass through. The mean migration intervals were less than 15 days for 4 species, 15-21 days for 11 species, 22-28 days for 6 species, and more than 28 days for 1 species.

As expected, the median departure date for most species was in mid- to late May (Table 1), and ranged from 8 May (Palm) to 2 June (Mourning). Seasonally, the median departure dates were: 6-10 May—1 species; 11-15 May—2 species; 16-20 May—3 species; 21-25 May—6 species; 26-31 May—9 species; and 1-5 June—1 species. A surprising finding was the large number of species that had median departure dates after 20 May.

The highest daily count (corrected to 1 hour of observation) for each year was determined. The highest and lowest numbers for these yearly peaks are shown in Table 2 and the median and range of dates are shown in Table 1. The median day for peak counts ranged from 29 April (Yellow-rumped) to 27 May (Mourning). Seasonally, they occurred in April—1 species; 1-10 May—4 species; 11-20 May—12 species; and 21-31 May—2 species. As expected, the peak for most species was in mid-May. Peaks are not shown for Golden-winged, Palm, and Bay-breasted Warblers because the numbers were too low to be useful. Over the years, the highest daily (peak) count varied greatly within and among species (Table 2). Some species, especially Tennessee and Orange-crowned, showed great fluctuation in the numbers seen on the peaks each year.

The mean number of birds seen per hour during the migration interval for each species also fluctuated (Table 2). For Tennessee Warbler, the high of 22.0 per hour in 1985 is 6.5 times as high as the low of 3.4 in 1983. For the Orange-crowned, the high of 5.3 per hour in 1984 is nearly 6 times the low of 0.9 per hour in 1985. The Yellow-rumped also showed considerable fluctuation with the high of 20.8 in 1982 4.5 times the low of 4.6 in 1984. The number of American Redstarts and Ovenbirds seen yearly has stayed very stable, the average number per hour fluctuating from 2.3 to 2.7 for American Redstart and 1.4 to 1.8 for Ovenbird. Chestnut-sideds show more variation ranging from 1.7 to 2.8.

The mean number of birds seen per year varied greatly among the species (Table 2). Despite daily surveys, on average I saw fewer than 10 individuals per year for seven species (plus the other 10 species not shown in the tables). Three species—Tennessee, Nashville, and Yellow-rumped—numerically dominated the spring warbler migration at Brookside Park. The long migration interval for these three, plus persistent loud singing (Nashville, Tennessee) may partially account for their high numbers.

## DISCUSSION

Several factors might affect the counts. When taking more than one hour to do a count, the chances of counting a bird twice are increased, as some birds move around. Sometimes a specific individual was counted several days in a row, thus raising the season's total. Yet it must be counted each day as one cannot know how many of the others stayed several days too. If a large group comes and stays several days, a higher season total will result than if the same group had stayed only one day.

Dense leaves slow the speed of identification, as does a dark overcast sky. Males of loudly singing species are more likely to be counted than are those of quieter species. The bias in detection probably remained relatively constant for each species. On some days a number of birds were not identified because of dense leaves, dark overcast sky, or rapid movement of birds.

Most days I birded in the morning. A few days I observed both morning and after-

noon to see if the time of day made any difference. Generally I found very little difference in either the number of species or the total number of birds.

The habitat available also influences the counts. All the species found in the open area were also found in the area with undergrowth. I never saw Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, or Connecticut Warbler in the open area. I have seen Mourning Warbler there only once and Canada there rarely.

In 1984, when I saw no Palm Warblers at Brookside Park, I saw six in an hour in a horse pasture just to the north. Some think that Palms favor more open country over wooded parkland, yet some springs I have seen several dozen within Brookside Park.

There has been considerable concern recently that habitat loss in Central and South America may be causing a decline in the number of migratory warblers. One of my original hopes was to be able to document population trends for individual species over several years. However, my Spring warbler counts at Brookside show so much yearly variation for many species that trends are not obvious. Daily counts at a number of locations over a considerable number of years might give a more reliable indication of changes in a species' status.

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## BYLAWS OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE

Approved by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 20 August 1985

These bylaws replace the original bylaws of the Records Committee (IBL 52:39-42).

### *Purpose:*

1. To maintain an up-to-date *Official List of Iowa Birds* and submit it for publication in *Iowa Bird Life* at least every ten years.
2. To submit updates of the *Field Checklist of Iowa Birds* for publication as needed.
3. To evaluate reports of rare species and other unusual bird sightings in Iowa in a fair and impartial manner, providing feedback to those submitting the reports and publishing an annual review of the evaluations.
4. To provide guidelines for reporting rare and unusual species to contributors and the Publications Committee.
5. To maintain a file of records submitted including photographs and other evidence and actions taken by the committee.
6. To promote activities which will improve the quantity and quality of our knowledge of Iowa birds.

### *Committee Structure:*

1. The committee shall consist of six members.
2. Qualifications for committee membership should include expertise in identification of birds, knowledge of Iowa birds, and familiarity with birders and birding localities in Iowa.
3. Terms on the committee shall be six years with one member appointed to the committee each year. Terms shall begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of appointment. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.
4. The committee shall recommend persons to the Board of Directors to fill vacated or expiring positions.

(continued on page 128)

# FIELD REPORTS—SUMMER 1986

JAMES J. DINSMORE

## WEATHER

June 1986 was the fifth of six warmer than normal months of 1986. While the first half of the month was near normal in temperature, the last half was hot and humid. The coolest days occurred on 2 and 3 June, with temperatures in the low 40s at some northeast localities. At the other extreme, Logan and Red Oak in southwest Iowa recorded temperatures in the 90s on 13 days. The big story of June weather was the precipitation which ranged from 1.6 inches at Titonka to 12.1 at Coon Rapids.

Greatest rainfalls occurred 28-30 June, with some reports as follows: 8.0 inches north of Coon Rapids, 6.5 inches at Glidden, 5.5 inches at Jefferson, 4.3 inches at Perry, 3.6 inches at Ames. Many rivers and streams rose to record high levels following these rains. Rain and flood losses reached disaster proportions in the following counties: Greene, Guthrie, Dallas, Boone, Polk, and locally in others, including Audubon and Carroll. At one time, tens of thousands of acres were flooded. Especially noteworthy was the report from Burlington on 4 June of 3.5 inches of rain in one hour and nearly 5.0 inches in a 24-hour period.

July was pleasantly normal in almost every aspect—hot, humid, and, to some degree, wet. Temperatures averaged only slightly above normal, while precipitation was about one inch above normal July expectations. Only the night of 28-29 July disturbed the typical Iowa summer month when over 12 tornadoes, strong winds, and violent storms occurred almost statewide. Unfortunately, the nesting site of Piping Plovers and Least Terns near Sioux City received a direct hit from one of the tornadoes. Presumably those late-nesting species were adversely affected. What effect, if any, weather had on the arrival of two western species, Mountain Plover and Rufous Hummingbird, on 9 and 10 July will probably never be known.

The heavy rains flooded many fields and provided considerable shorebird habitat, much as in summer 1984. Two new government programs had some effect on habitat conditions this summer. About 140,000 acres of erodible Iowa farmland were put into the Conservation Reserve program under which it will be left idle for 10 years. In addition, about 2.75 million acres were taken out of corn under the Feed Grain Program. However, soybean plantings were at an all time record high and presumably included some of the land normally planted to corn. As is typical, there are few indications yet of what these habitat conditions have meant to breeding bird populations. Department of Natural Resources roadside counts of pheasants in August were down 11 percent from 1985, while bobwhites were up 9 percent. Petersen noted that for ten relatively common grassland birds (e.g., Horned Lark, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark), counts on two Breeding Bird Surveys generally were at three-year highs. The Conservation Reserve Program could have a positive long-term effect on such species; comparisons should be noted in future years. (Weather data prepared by Jim Sandrock).

## GENERAL TRENDS

As in recent summers, there was considerable interest in finding some of the more localized warblers. Virtually all of the warblers that do or should breed in Iowa were



reported. The abundant flooded-field habitat also attracted lots of attention and resulted in a number of early or late dates for shorebirds. Oddly, there were few reports of waterfowl this year, probably because there were fewer visits to their northern Iowa habitats.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

One species new to Iowa, Rufous Hummingbird, and one other Accidental species (Mountain Plover) were reported this summer. In addition, the five Casual species reported (White-faced Ibis, Burrowing Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch) were somewhat more than is typical, making this an exciting summer. Other good birds found included Cinnamon Teal, Common Goldeneye, Sharp-shinned Hawk, King Rail, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Bonaparte's Gull, Prairie Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. The first evidence of Iowa nesting for three species (White-faced Ibis, House Finch, Red Crossbill) was reported this year. Other rare or unusual birds found nesting this summer included Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Long-eared Owl, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Great-tailed Grackle. The period of 9 to 12 July was especially frantic as both the Mountain Plover and Rufous Hummingbird made their appearances, nesting Red Crossbills in Des Moines and House Finches in Corydon were found, and Henslow's Sparrow, which was not reported in 1985, showed up in southern Iowa. All in all, it was a productive summer.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented; m.ob. = many observers.

**Common Loon:** 1 was at Keokuk on 10 Jun (RCe); another was at Little Clear L. on 24 Jun (RVH).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Evidence of nesting was found at Willow Sl. and near Council Bluffs in Jun (BLW).

**American White Pelican:** Up to 56 were reported at Forney L. in Jun and Jul (BPa, LPa, BLW, SD); 10 at Mud L., Clay Co., on 27 Jul probably summered (JJD).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1 at Sunken Grove on 16 Jun (RVH), 1 at Hendrickson M. on 19 Jun (HZ), 4 at Forney L. in mid-Jun (BLW, TB), 18 at Mud L. on 13 Jul (SD), 2 in Fremont Co. on 27 Jul (BPa, LPa), and 4 at Otter Creek M. (BMB) probably all summered.

**American Bittern:** 2 were at Big Wall L. on 29 Jun (SD), and 1 was near Colo on 11 Jul (Harry Henry fide HZ).

**Least Bittern:** 1-5 were reported at Forney L. (BLW, RKM, TB, BPa, LPa), Big Wall L. (SD, MPr), and Otter Creek M. (BMB, MPr) through the summer; 2 were at Blue L. on 5 Jul (BH); 1 was at Booneville in Jul (EIA, EuA).

**Great Blue Heron:** Nesting reports included 12 nests near Plano, Appanoose Co., on 22 Apr (James L. Hansen fide DRe), 70-80 birds at Otter Creek M. (BMB), 6 nests at Saylorville Dam (BEn), and a small colony at Cardinal M. (Jim Ripple fide DRe); 5 birds flying along the Big Sioux R. in Lyon Co. on 16 Jul looked like a family group (DCH).

**Great Egret:** Post-breeding groups included 10 at Otter Creek M. on 24 Jul (NAK) and 35 in Fremont Co. on 27 Jul (BPa, LPa).

**Snowy Egret:** An immature at DeSoto N.W.R. on 26 Jul (BPa, LPa) and 2 more in Fremont Co. on 27 Jul (BPa, LPa) were the only reports.

**Little Blue Heron:** 20 (9 ad., 11 imm.) were in Fremont Co. on 21 Jul (MPr, BPr), and 5 imm. were at Otter Creek M. on 15 Jul (BMB). Singles were at Burlington on 12 Jul (JF), Booneville on 16 Jul (EIA, EuA), L. Manawa on 18 Jul (EM), Coralville Res. on 20 Jul (THK), and Polk City on 26 Jul (SD).

- Cattle Egret:** 1 at Ventura M. on 3 Jun (TGL), 3 at Corydon on 13 Jul (Ela, EuA), 4 at Long Pond, Guthrie Co., on 17 Jul (SD, EM), and 6 at IPL Ponds on 22 Jul (MPr, BPr) were the only reports.
- Green-backed Heron:** A nest with 2 young was found at Ames on 9 Jun (EM).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 30-40 nested at Jemmerston Sl. (SD, JJD); 25 at Otter Creek M. all summer were seen carrying nesting material in Jun (BMB); several seen near Silver L., Dickinson Co., may have nested (DCH).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 4 were near Saylorville Dam on 9 Jun (BEn), 12 at Burlington on 12 Jul (JF), and 4 ad. and 7 imm. in Fremont Co. on 27 Jul (BP, LPa); singles were near Toolsboro, Louisa Co., on 30 May (PCP), at Otter Creek M. in late Jun (BMB), at IPL Ponds on 28 Jun (SD), and near Polk City on 15 and 26 Jul (SD).
- White-faced Ibis:** At least 8 adults and 3 nests were found at Jemmerston Sl. on 5 Jun and 13 Jul (SD, JJD, EM), the first nest record for this species in Iowa.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1 with a broken wing was seen throughout the summer at IPL Ponds (BLW, BP, LPa).
- Snow Goose:** 9 were at Forney L. on 13 and 28 Jun and 1 Jul (TB, SD); 2 summered at IPL Ponds (BLW).
- Canada Goose:** Broods at Kiowa M. in Sac Co. (MPM), Sunken Grove and Little Clear L. in Pocahontas Co. (RVH), and S Winneshiek Co. (MAD) are evidence of the continued spread of this species.
- Cinnamon Teal:** A male seen at New L., Woodbury Co., on 17 Jul (\*BH) is the first summer record for Iowa. Two spring reports were received: single males at Clear L. on 29, 31 Mar (Jim Walter and Lowell Washburn fide TLG) and at McIntosh Sl., also in Cerro Gordo Co., on 19 May (Jim Hansen fide TLG).
- Northern Shoveler:** 1 was at Bays Branch on 10 Jun (SD).
- Gadwall:** 2 at Willow Sl. on 8 Jun (BLW) and 1 at Dunbar Sl. on 10 Jun (SD) were the only reports.
- Canvasback:** Singles were at Big Wall L. on 4, 29 Jun (SD) and at McIntosh Sl. on 18 Jun (TLG).
- Redhead:** 3 pair were at Big Wall L. in Jun (SD).
- Ring-necked Duck:** Singles were in SW Hamilton Co. on 1, 3 Jun, and at S. Twin L. and Dan Green Sl. on 6 Jun (SD).
- Lesser Scaup:** There were scattered reports including 4 at Keokuk on 10 Jun (RCe) and 1 at Forney L. on 28 Jun (SD).
- Common Goldeneye:** 1 seen at Dunbar Sl. all spring remained until at least 10 Jun (SD) for the second Iowa summer record.
- Hooded Merganser:** A brood was seen at Otter Creek M. (BMB), and 1-2 females were reported from Allamakee, Boone, Calhoun, Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Fremont, Louisa, and Mills counties.
- Ruddy Duck:** A brood was at Jemmerston Sl. on 13 Jul (SD, EM), and 3 pairs were at Big Wall L. in Jun (SD).
- Osprey:** 1 was in N Tama Co. on 6 Jun (FLM) and another at L. Macbride on 11 Jul (TJS).
- Bald Eagle:** 3 nests were active in NE Iowa this year (DRe). An immature was s of Bellevue on 8 Jul (PCP), and an adult was at Huron Is., Des Moines Co., on 10 Jul (PCP).
- Northern Harrier:** 2 pairs seen throughout Jun in W Plymouth Co. perhaps nested (KP). Singles near St. Lucas on 1 Jun (MAD), at Big Wall L. on 21 Jun (SD, EM), and near Polk City on 15 Jul (SD) probably were not nesting.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 seen in Shimek F. near Argyle on 3, 6 Jun (MPr, \*RCe) is one of the few recent summer records for Iowa.
- Cooper's Hawk:** A nest near Saylorville Dam fledged 2 young as it did in 1985 (BEn). Singles were reported from Winneshiek Co. on 31 May (MAD), Fayette Co. on 1 Jun (MAD), Shimek F. near Argyle on 1 Jun (RCe), and Boone Co. on 2 Jun (SD, EM).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 was at L. Odessa on 4 Jul (SD).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** The only nest reported was at Waubonsie S.P. (BLW, TB); pairs were seen in Holst F., Boone Co. (SD, MPr, BPr), Ledges S.P. (SD), and Yellow River F. (MPr, BPr).

- Swainson's Hawk:** A pair was seen throughout Jun and Jul at George Wyth S.P. (FLM). Singles were seen in SW Hamilton Co. on 1 Jun (SD), near St. Lucas on 8 Jun (MAD), in Fremont Co. on 28 Jun (SD), and near Ledges S.P. on 28 Jun (RKM).
- Gray Partridge:** 2 broods near Colo on 3 and 12 Jul (HZ) and another in Boone Co. on 25 Jun (SD) were near the southern end of their range.
- Northern Bobwhite:** A male was seen on 30 Jun near Spirit L., north of its usual range (DCH), and a flock of 30 was near Booneville on 24 Jul (EIA, EuA).
- King Rail:** Singles were seen at McIntosh Sl. on 10 Jun (\*Mickey Hellickson fide TLG) and at Forney L. on 13 Jun (\*BLW, \*TB, \*BP); 3 answered tapes at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD), and 1 was heard at Muskrat Sl. on 10 Jun (TJS).
- Common Moorhen:** An amazing 27 adults and 33 young were at Big Wall L. on 29 Jun (SD). Broods were found s of New Albin in Jun (Jim Ripple fide DRe) and at Green Is., Jackson Co. (Jim Jensen fide JJD), and a nest was found at Willow Sl. on 14 Jun (Matt Towne fide BLW). Other reports were 4 at Dunbar Sl. on 10 Jun (SD), 1 at Ventura M. on 15 Jun (Jim Hansen fide TLG), and 1 in SW Hamilton Co. on 26 Jun (SD).
- Sandhill Crane:** A spring report was 1 at Ventura on 25 Apr (Alan Hancock fide TLG).
- Lesser Golden-Plover:** 3 at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD) were the last spring birds while 2 at Colo Ponds on 9 Jul (HZ, m.ob.), 1 at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 13 Jul (Ken Olson and Doug Rose fide PCP), and 1 near Polk City on 15 Jul (SD) are the three earliest fall dates on record.
- Semipalmated Plover:** 1 on 3 Jul in Tama Co. (SD) is a record early fall date.
- Piping Plover:** At least 4 of 8 nests at IPL Ponds were successful (BLW); 6 adults and 1 young were seen on 3 Jul at the nesting area south of Sioux City (BH).
- Killdeer:** An amazing 408 were counted on flooded fields near Polk City on 27 Jul (SD).
- Mountain Plover:** 1 seen at the Colo Ponds on 9-10 Jul (\*HZ, \*JJD, \*JF, \*THK, \*PM, \*FLM, \*RKM, \*MPr, \*TJS) awaits review by the Records Committee. This is the second report of this species from Iowa and was totally unexpected.
- American Avocet:** 2 or 3 were seen repeatedly s of Sioux City through Jun to 3 Jul (\*BH, RDW); their behavior suggested nesting but no firm evidence was seen.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 near Stratford, Hamilton Co., on 3 Jun (SD) are the second latest spring record, while 1 at Big Wall L. on 21 Jun (SD, EM) may have summered. The first fall birds were near Polk City on 6 Jul (SD), w of West Okoboji L. on 7 Jul (NPB), and at Colo Ponds on 8 Jul (PM); a peak of 67 were near Polk City on 26 Jul (SD).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD) are the latest spring (or earliest fall) record while 1 at Big Creek L. on 25 Jun (SD) may have summered. Fall migrants were in Tama Co. on 3 and 6 Jul (SD, NAK) and near Booneville on 6 Jul (EIA, EuA). The peak was 1,194 in N Polk Co. on 26 Jul (SD).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** The first fall birds were in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD) and e of Ames on 10 Jul (PM); the peak was 48 near Colo on 14 Jul (SD).
- Willet:** Fall arrivals included 5 in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD), 1 at the IPL Ponds on 5 Jul (BLW) with 40 there on 6 Jul (BP, LPA), and 21 s of Ames on 6 Jul (SD).
- Upland Sandpiper:** A pair with 3 young s of Booneville (EIA, EuA) and a pair defending a nest site w of Spirit Lake on 25 Jun (DCH) were the only nesting reports. Others, mostly singles, were reported from Adams, Appanoose, Boone, Dallas, Fayette, Fremont, Greene, Hamilton, Jefferson, Johnson, Marshall, Mills, Montgomery, Pocahontas, Polk, Story, Winneshiek, and Wright counties.
- Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 at Colo Ponds on 5 Jun (HZ) and another in SW Hamilton Co. on 8 Jun (SD) are record late dates.
- Marbled Godwit:** 1 s of Ames (SD, details) and 3 at the IPL Ponds (BP, LPA, details), both on 6 Jul are two of the few recent summer records.
- Sanderling:** 3 in alternate plumage at Saylorville on 27 Jul (SD) are the third earliest ever.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 5 in Greene Co. on 10 Jun (SD) are a record late date; 3 at the Colo Ponds on 6 Jun (HZ) and 7 ne of Ames on 3 Jun (PM) were also late. Four seen through 25 Jun in SW Story Co. (SD) defy definition. One in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD) was a record early fall bird; and 306 e of Polk City on 27 Jul (SD) were the peak.



- Western Sandpiper:** Details were provided for 1 in alternate plumage at Colo Ponds on 14 Jul (SD, HZ, third earliest); 2 were in N Polk Co. on 27 Jul (SD).
- Least Sandpiper:** 4 in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD) are the second earliest record and 4 at Colo Ponds on 8 Jul (PM) were also early. The peak was 267 in N Polk Co. on 27 Jul (SD).
- White-rumped Sandpiper:** The usual records from early Jun included 3 at Colo Ponds on 6 Jun (HZ), 4 at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD), and 2-4 through 25 Jun in SW Story Co. (SD).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** 3 w of West Okoboji L. on 7 Jul (NPB) and 3 ne of Ames on 14 Jul (SD) are the earliest and third earliest reports of this species.
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD) was the last spring report, while 2 in Webster Co. on 26 Jun and 1 near Ankeny on 27 Jun (SD) defy classification; 20 in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD) are the second earliest fall record. The peak was 1,286 in N Polk Co. on 27 Jul (SD).
- Dunlin:** The last spring birds included 2 at IPL Ponds on 4 Jun (BLW), 7 at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD), and 3 in Polk Co. on 10 Jun (SD), the latter the second latest ever. The first fall bird was 1 in Pocahontas Co. on 11 Jul (BLW, TB), a record early date.
- Stilt Sandpiper:** 2 in Tama Co. 3 Jul (SD) tie the second earliest fall record, 1 at Colo Ponds on 7 Jul (HZ) was also early.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 1 seen several times e of Polk City from 26 to 29 Jul (SD, RKM) ties the second earliest fall date.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** Singles e of Ames on 3 Jun (SL) and at Big Wall L. on 8 Jun (SD) are the second and third latest spring records; 4 in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD) and 31 in Story Co. on 6 Jul (SD) are the earliest and third earliest fall records; 11 at Colo Ponds on 8 Jul (PM) also were early.
- Common Snipe:** Singles near Calmar, Winneshiek Co., on 12 Jun (MAD), Saylorville Res. on 17 Jun (BEn), and at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 18 Jun (DCH) suggest nesting, while 1 in N Polk Co. on 31 Jul (SD) was probably a migrant.
- Wilson's Phalarope:** 3 in Tama Co. on 3 Jul (SD) ties the record early date; the only other report was 17 e of Polk City on 27 Jul (SD).
- Franklin's Gull:** Singles were at the IPL Ponds (BLW) and Big Wall L. (SD) on 4 Jun and at Jemmerson Sl. on 13 Jul (SD, EM).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 at Saylorville Res. on 25 Jun (SD) is one of the few recent summer records.
- Ring-billed Gull:** Besides the usual scattered individuals, 32 summered at Keokuk (RCe) and 30 were near Arnolds Park on 27 Jul (JJD).
- Caspian Tern:** 3-7 were at the IPL Ponds in Jun and early Jul (TB, BPa, LPa, BLW), and up to 7 summered at Saylorville Res. (SD); there were several other scattered records.
- Forster's Tern:** With nesting colonies at Ventura M. (15-25 nests, TGL), Dan Green Sl. (17 adults, SD, JJD), and Jemmerson Sl. (20 adults, SD, JJD) along with a nest at Big Wall L. (SD), this had to be one of the best recent years for this species in Iowa. Nine at Saylorville Res. on 15 Jul (SD), 5 at Coralville Res. on 20 Jul (THK), and 6 at the IPL Ponds on 20 Jul (BPa, LPa) must have been migrants.
- Least Tern:** 14 nests produced at least 9 young at the IPL Ponds (BLW, BPa, LPa) while another pair nested s of Sioux City (BH).
- Black Tern:** Some 30 nests were at Big Wall L. in Jun (SD), while 30-40 adults at Jemmerson Sl. in Jun also included some nesting birds (JJD, SD).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** Munson said black-bills outnumbered yellow-bills 2:1 in the Des Moines River Valley. A nest was active near Rippey in mid-Jul (SL).
- Common Barn-Owl:** A pair nested in Wayne Co. (DR) and another pair was heard repeatedly in Story Co. (DR, BE, SD, EM).
- Eastern Screech-Owl:** A nest at Prairie City produced 5 young (DT).
- Snowy Owl:** A late report from winter was 1 s of Ventura on 28 Feb. (Ron Andrews fide TGL).
- Burrowing Owl:** 1-2 were seen repeatedly near Payne Junction, Fremont Co., through 12 Jul (BLW, m.ob.). Another was w of Sac City on 29 Jul (LMK).



- Long-eared Owl:** An injured young bird and nest were found s of Ledges S.P. on 1 Jul (BEh, SD).
- Chuck-will's-widow:** The usual birds were reported from near Waubonsie S.P. (RKM, FLM, MPr, BPr).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 1-2 in Hardin, Johnson, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Sioux counties were the only reports of this Blue-listed species.
- Rufous Hummingbird:** 1 seen and photographed at St. Olaf, Clayton Co., on 10-11 Jul (LS) awaits review by the Records Committee to establish it as the first Iowa record.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The only reports were 1 s of New Albin on 4 Jun (MPr, BPr) and 2 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 28 Jun (SF).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 seen well at Big Wall L. on 21 Jun (SD) is a record late date.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1 heard in Boone Co. on 2 Jun (SD) was the only report.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** Reported from Boone, Iowa, Lee, and Polk counties.
- Alder Flycatcher:** There were the usual early Jun records including 1 near Ames on 12 Jun (PM); 4-6 heard at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. 25-30 Jul (JPSa) would have to be early migrants.
- Willow Flycatcher:** 1-3 were reported in Adams, Johnson, Jones, Mills, and Polk counties.
- Least Flycatcher:** 1 in Ames on 11 Jul (JJD, SD) probably was an early migrant.
- Western Kingbird:** 1-4 were reported from Fremont, Lyons, Mills, and Woodbury counties, all in their usual range.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 was seen n of Lake View, Sac Co., on 20 Jun (\*MPM) and another was e of Lost Nation, Clinton Co., on 6 Jul (Dolly McClaffin fide THK).
- Purple Martin:** Mosman reported nest success at Elkhart (75 nests, 252 fledged) as similar to last year. The big roost at Keokuk didn't form this year, perhaps because of disturbance (RCe).
- Bank Swallow:** 125 near Tama was the only report (NAK).
- Brown Creeper:** Petersen reported singles from near Toolsboro, Louisa Co., on 8 Jul and Huron Island, Des Moines Co., on 15 Jul, the latter near where they nested in 1985.
- Carolina Wren:** All reports were from SE Iowa: 1-3 at Shimek F. near Argyle (RCe), a pair at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa), and singles in Iowa City on 22 Jun (THK) and 25 Jul (JF).
- Bewick's Wren:** No reports.
- Winter Wren:** 1 was heard at West Okoboji L. from 9-14 Jun (NPB).
- Sedge Wren:** 1-2 were reported from Monona Co. on 1 Jun (BH), IPL Ponds on 2 and 27 Jun (BLW), Montgomery Co. on 6 Jun (BLW), Badger L, Webster Co., on 22-23 Jun (JS), Pottawattamie Co. on 24 Jun (BLW), Shields Prairie, Muscatine Co., on 19 Jul (PCP), and Orange City on 20 Jul (GJB). Bray thought they were rather common this summer.
- Eastern Bluebird:** Kubik reported no successful nests on a trail near Tama, while Mosman had 150 fledge near Elkhart for the best success in 15 years.
- Veery:** Besides reports from the usual E Iowa sites, 30 were reported from Boone Co. (SD, EM), and 1 was at West Okoboji L. from 16-18 Jun (NPB).
- Swainson's Thrush:** 1 in Ames on 4 Jun (PM) is the latest spring date.
- Northern Mockingbird:** The only reports were 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 and 10 Jun (MPr, BPr) and singles near Randolph, Fremont Co., on 1 Jun (BLW), in NW Adams Co. on 10 Jul (BLW, TB), Ringgold Co. on 13 Jul (BPa, LPa), and near Booneville in Jun and Jul (ELA, EuA). A nest with 2 eggs near St. Lucas, Fayette Co., on 29 Jun (MAD) was north of its usual range.
- Cedar Waxwing:** A nest near Colo had 2 young on 11 Jul (EM). Bray thought they were common this year.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** Adults with young were reported near Inwood, Lyon Co., on 1 Jun (DCH), near West Okoboji L. on 18-20 Jun (NPB), w of Liscomb, Marshall Co. on 20 Jun and 7 Jul (2 different broods, MPr, BPr), and in Fremont Co. on 12 Jul (BPa, LPa).
- White-eyed Vireo:** Besides the usual birds in S Iowa, 6 summered in Boone Co. (SD, EM).

- Bell's Vireo:** The only reports were from Fayette, Hamilton, Iowa, Mills, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Ringgold counties.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** Munson noted this species was twice as common as red-eyes in Story Co.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** Several said this species was very common this summer; 15 and 6 males were seen in Shimek F. units in Lee and VanBuren counties respectively (RCe), and about 20 were in Boone Co. (SD, EM).
- Tennessee Warbler:** 1 in Shimek F. near Argyle on 7 Jun (RCe, FLM, BLW, TB) is the third latest spring record.
- Northern Parula:** 1-4 were reported from Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ledges S.P., and Shimek F. near Argyle. New sites included singles in Union Co. on 6 Jun (BLW, TB) and Huron Island, Des Moines Co., on 8 Jul (PCP).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Single males at Woodman Hollow, Webster Co., on 2 Jun (RKM), near Ledges S.P. on 8 Jun (SD), and w of Luther, Boone Co., through 1 Jul (SD, EM, RKM) are more than are found in most summers.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** A male seen well in Holst F., Boone Co., on 8 Jun (MPr, BPr) is the second latest spring record.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** Besides the usual birds at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. and Ledges S.P., Cecil found 1 at Shimek F. near Argyle on 18 Jun. Adults attending a nest with 3 young at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Jun (FLM, RKM) is the second nesting record of this species in Iowa.
- Prairie Warbler:** A male was seen by many at Shimek F. near Argyle from 7-12 Jun (\*RCe, \*JF, \*BLW).
- Cerulean Warbler:** A nest with 4 young was found at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 17 Jun (FLM, RKM) for one of the few recent breeding records. Other birds were found in Boone Co. (SD, EM, MPr), Polk Co. (BE), Shimek F. (RCe, MPr, BLW), and Pikes Peak S.P. (PCP).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** A pair was at Ledges S.P. on 1 Jun (SD).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** 8 were seen near New Albin on 4 Jun (MPr, BPr), and 2 pairs summered at Saylorville (BE).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** 1-2 were seen at Shimek F. near Argyle throughout Jun (RCe, m.ob.); 4 of 5 there on 21 Jul appeared to be a family group (RCe); 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. 16-18 Jun (FLM, RKM).
- Ovenbird:** Munson found 25 in a square mile along the Des Moines R. in Boone Co.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** A nest with young was found near St. Lucas on 14 Jun (MAD); 1-8 birds were in the usual sites in Boone, Dubuque, Fremont, Lee, Polk, and VanBuren counties.
- Kentucky Warbler:** Moore found 10-15 in Lee and VanBuren counties and called it very common there. Other reports were from Holst F., Boone Co. (MPr, RKM) and Mann Wilderness, Hardin Co. (MPr).
- Connecticut Warbler:** 1 at Ledges S.P. on 1 Jun (SD) ties the third latest spring date.
- Mourning Warbler:** 2 were near Luther, Boone Co., on 2 Jun (SD, EM) and 1 was at Holst F. on 9 Jun (RKM).
- Common Yellowthroat:** Kubik noted they were very common at Otter Creek M.
- Hooded Warbler:** 1-4 were found at Shimek F. 7-10 Jun (RCe, m.ob.) and Holst F., Boone Co., 2-29 Jun (RKM).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** 14 were found in Boone and Polk counties along the Des Moines R. (SD, EM). Cecil found 4 in Shimek F. near Argyle on 6 Jun and 3 elsewhere in Lee Co. on 12 Jun; 2 were near Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 2 Jun (MPr, BPr); and 1 was at Bays Branch on 14 Jun (RKM).
- Summer Tanager:** Mostly singles were reported: from Waubonsie S.P. (BLW, m.ob.), Shimek F. near Argyle (RCe, m.ob.), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa, m.ob.).
- Scarlet Tanager:** Munson found 15 in a square mile along the Des Moines R. in Boone Co. A female in Nelson Park, Crawford Co., on 12 Jul (BLW) was out of its usual range.

**Blue Grosbeak:** There were numerous reports from its usual western Iowa sites ranging from 16 in Fremont Co. on 28 Jun (SD) to 1 at Blood Run, Lyon Co., on 14 Jun (JF). A female carrying food to a nest site in Lee Co. on 4 Jul (SD) seemed to confirm nesting for that corner of Iowa; adults have been noted there in summer for several years.

**Dickcissel:** Wilson thought they were abundant in SW Iowa this year.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Up to 5 males were reported from near Larchwood through mid-Jul (JJD, SD, DCH, JLM) but nests could not be found; 2 were w of West Okoboji L. on 13 Jun (JF); and 2 were at Gitchie Manitou, Lyon Co., on 14 Jun (JF).

**Lark Sparrow:** An active nest n of Ames on 12 Jun (PM) and a bird in Fayette Co. on 14 Jun (MAD) were the only reports.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 was near Leon in Jun (Gerry Shimek fide JJD) and up to 3 males s of Mount Ayr (Tom Rosburg fide JJD) were seen by several others through mid-Jul.

**Swamp Sparrow:** 1 near St. Lucas on 8 Jun (MAD), 4 at Beeds L. S.P. on 10-11 Jul (BLW, TB), and several at Black Hawk L. on 12 Jul (BLW, TB) were the only reports.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Nesting was reported at 2 Boone Co. sites (R. Given Harper fide JJD, SD), somewhat out of its usual range.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** 2 or 3 birds plus a nest were at Forney L. on 19 Jun (FLM, RKM), and a pair and 1 young were s of Sioux City on 10 Jul (\*BH), continuing the saga of this species rapid range expansion. Other reports were 26 on 10 Jun in the Guthrie-Greene County area where they nested this spring (SD), 2 pairs at Big Wall L. through Jun (SD), and a male at Otter Creek M. from 9 Jun-25 Jul (BMB).

**Orchard Oriole:** The only reports were from Madison, Johnson, and Story counties.

**House Finch:** 2 broods were seen at a feeder in Davenport (PCP) and another brood was in Corydon 12 Jul (Dorothy Pohl fide JJD, SD, MPr). A pair seen throughout Jun in Waterloo later had two young birds with them (Antoinette Camarata fide JJD). These are the first Iowa nesting records for this rapidly expanding species.

**Red Crossbill:** A pair feeding 4 young in Des Moines on 9 and 10 Jul (EIA, EuA, DT) apparently is the first Iowa nesting record. A specimen, now at Iowa State University, was found near Newton in late Jun or early Jul (Lois Larsen fide JJD).

**Pine Siskin:** Singles were in Ames on 12 Jun (EM) and daily to 8 Jul in Elkhart (DDM).

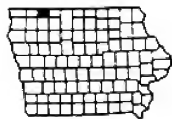
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## WHITE-FACED IBIS NESTING IN DICKINSON COUNTY

STEVE DINSMORE and JAMES J. DINSMORE



On 20 May 1986, we found 6 adult White-faced Ibis at Jemmerson Slough, Dickinson County. Their heron-like profile, dark coloration, and long, decurved bill identified them as ibises. The broad white facial skin at the base of the bill and carmine colored legs (not confined to the ankles) identified them as White-faced Ibis. The birds gave only brief, clear views as they repeatedly flew low over the marsh and then dropped out of sight in the emergent vegetation. They appeared to be paired, and, while perched in the vegetation, often flapped their wings. We believe they were copulating. Similar behavior was observed the next morning.

On 5 June 1986, we canoed the area in search of nests. At least 8 adult ibis were present. We found one ibis nest, but to minimize disturbance, we did not look for additional nests. We believe that the other ibis pairs were nesting. The nest was 30 feet from open water within the large cattail bed that covered most the center of the slough.

The nest was a flimsy platform of cattail stems placed on a cattail clump 66 cm above the surface of the water. One of the four bluish eggs measured 50.6 by 38.5 mm. The size and color of the eggs match published descriptions for White-faced Ibis (Harrison 1978). The adults circled over us and called while we were at the nest. We left after a brief visit. We also found Black-crowned Night-Heron nests on the marsh, but not near the ibis nest. The heron nests, although similar to the ibis nest, were constructed of bulrush rather than cattail stems.

We revisited the marsh on 13 July and could find only 5 ibises. We could not relocate the first nest, but found two additional ones—one with 3 eggs and the other with 4. Both nests were in cattails, 113 and 100 cm above the water.

On a final visit on 9 August, one of us (SD) found no sign of the nests or the birds. The nests must have been unsuccessful, as it takes five to six weeks for young ibis to fledge (Harrison 1978).



*White-faced Ibis and Ibis nest, Jemmerson Slough, Dickinson County, 13 July 1986.  
Photo by Erik Munson.*

This is the first nesting record of White-faced Ibis for Iowa, and the easternmost interior nesting record for this species. The closest previous nesting records are from Heron Lake, Minnesota, in 1894 and 1895 (Peabody 1896). This location is 20 miles northwest of Jemmerson Slough. Other recent nesting records from the northern Great Plains states include: Nebraska—Valentine N.W.R. in 1984 (*Am. Birds* 38:1035); South Dakota—Sand Lake N.W.R. in 1978 (*Am. Birds* 32:1176), three subsequent years at Sand Lake, White Wood Lake in 1982 (*Am. Birds* 36:990); North Dakota—Long Lake in 1978 and Kraft Slough in 1979 (*Am. Birds* 32:1176, 33:874); and Montana—Bowdoin N.W.R. in 1975 (Skaar 1975). Although there were a few scattered nesting records for this region at the turn of the century (e.g., Nebraska and Minnesota), by 1965 the only interior colonies were at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas, and in several mountain states (Ryder 1967). Since then, the spread northward has been evident by the numerous records of stragglers and migrants throughout this region. Only time will tell us whether the Iowa nesting is a one-time occurrence or the beginning of a nesting population.

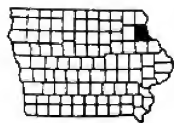
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## RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN CLAYTON COUNTY

LARRY STONE



At about 6:30 p.m. on 10 July 1986, a hummingbird appeared at a sugar-water feeder near the kitchen window of our home in St. Olaf. The bird fed briefly at the red-and-yellow plastic flowers, and my wife, Margaret, remarked that it looked brownish, rather than green like the ruby-throats we normally see. I responded that the bird probably looked odd because it was immature or molting. But the hummingbird returned every few minutes, and Margaret kept insisting that it was something different. We studied it more closely and noticed its bright orange gorget, indicating an adult male. The rest of the plumage was predominantly brown to rusty, with lighter breast feathers and darker wing feathers. The bird closely matched the picture of a male Rufous Hummingbird in *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim.

Still skeptical, I set up a camera and flash units and made several color photographs of the bird through an open window at a distance of about three feet. The bird at first flew away when the strobe flashed, but later showed little fear of the light. It returned to the feeder at intervals of 5 to 15 minutes, feeding for a few seconds to one minute each time. It often flew to nearby arborvitae trees when it left the feeder, but we did not see it perch. The bird kept returning until about 9 p.m., when it was nearly dark.

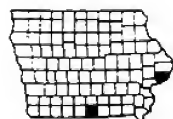
Next morning, July 11, I first saw the bird about 7:30 a.m. It continued to feed at the feeder at about 10 to 30 minute intervals. I made a few more photographs. After about 10 a.m., the bird did not return. We did not see any ruby-throats for a comparison while the rufous was present. But when we saw a male ruby-throat later in the day, we remarked that it looked smaller, slimmer, and greener than the rufous.

After discussions with Tom Kent, Jim Dinsmore, and Francis Moore, we were confident the bird we saw and photographed was an adult male Rufous Hummingbird. The distinct, rusty color, especially on the back, fit no other species. Of the possible vagrant hummingbirds, the rufous is most likely to wander into Iowa.

*Box 68, St. Olaf, IA 52072*

## FIRST HOUSE FINCHES NESTING IN IOWA

STEVE DINSMORE and PETER C. PETERSEN



Since first reported in 1982, the House Finch has become an increasingly frequent visitor in Iowa, occurring at scattered locations at all times of the year. It was considered only a matter of time before nesting occurred. Here we report the details for the first nesting records of House Finches in Iowa.

In early July 1986 Dinsmore received a call from Doug Reeves about a pair of House Finches in Corydon, Wayne County. The birds had been visiting the feeder of Dorothy Pohl since mid-April. In early July, she began seeing a third bird which appeared to be a recently fledged young bird. On 12 July 1986, Mark Proescholdt and Dinsmore saw a female House Finch and at least two young birds about a block from Mrs. Pohl's feeder. On at least one occasion, they saw the young begging for food from the female. The sparrow size, large bill, brown coloration, and streaked underparts identified the birds as House Finches. The lack of a distinct ear patch eliminated female Purple Finch.

In early May 1986 Petersen received a call from Harold Ray of Davenport about some Purple Finches still coming to his feeder. Petersen suggested that they might be House Finches, and on 31 May Mr. Ray informed Petersen that he was sure the birds were House Finches. On 1 June Petersen saw the pair and a begging young. The male was identified by the rich orange-red of the head, throat, breast, and rump. The female and young lacked the white eye stripe of the female Purple Finch. On 20 July, another young bird was seen at the same feeder, indicating that the parents had raised a second brood. No more than one young was seen at one time. The male was still visiting the feeder on 6 August.

We believe that these House Finches came from the eastern population, rather than the western population, of this species. The eastern birds are moving west at a rapid pace while the western birds seem to have slowed their eastward movement.

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## REVIEWS

### *SHOREBIRDS: AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE WADERS OF THE WORLD*

Peter Hayman, John Marchant, and Tony Prater. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1986. 412 pp. Hardbound \$35.00.

Reviewed by CARL J. BENDORF

Birders familiar with *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* by Peter Harrison will recognize *Shorebirds* as a work with a similar format and purpose. Both are by British authors, both are published by Houghton Mifflin, and both give comprehensive worldwide coverage of a group of birds. The layouts from the cover designs to the page formats are almost identical. Never before has one reference attempted to illustrate and describe every plumage variation of every shorebird species.

The book is divided into an introductory portion (pp 11-36), color plates (pp 38-213), species accounts (pp 215-390), identification tables (391-399), appendix (p 400), general and specific bibliography (pp 401-407), and index of vernacular and scientific names (pp 408-412).

The noteworthy introductory sections of the book include: foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, introduction, how to use this book, how to identify waders, general notes on families and groups of waders, conservation of wader habitat and species, how to study waders, acknowledgments, and notes on the plates by Peter Hayman. Especially fascinating are notes about the color plates by the artist, Peter Hayman. He explains the methods used to produce paintings from skins and specimens and how the birds are measured and reproduced to scale.

The 88 color plates illustrate 1,700 birds of 214 species (40 have occurred in Iowa). Each species is shown on average in seven different plumages and poses. For example, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs are each depicted as: adult breeding, adult non-breeding, juvenile, upper surface flying away, under surface flying sideways, and a distant view of both standing together. Great care has been taken with the layout of the plates to allow direct comparison between similar species, and, in most plates, birds of similar species and in the same plumage are shown together in similar poses. This allows one to concentrate on the plumage and structure comparison without being distracted by difference in poses.

Every species is illustrated thoroughly. An extreme example is the Kentish Plover (our Snowy Plover), a world-wide species, that is shown in all plumages for five different races in a staggering 27 different paintings. Several special plates will be of great interest to Iowa birders; for example, there are plates of all of the juvenile peeps and of all of the adult peeps. Peter Hayman's illustrations are of uniform high quality. They show great detail without distorting postures and proportions.

The birds in the plates are generally arranged in taxonomic order, with some variation to allow the grouping of similar species. One to three species are shown on each plate; the facing page is a key with brief description of field marks for each plumage and pose. The illustrations are keyed to the description only by a number underneath the bird. This requires much looking back and forth, but it encourages one to study the birds without labels, much as it happens in the field. A range map for each species shows the breeding and winter distribution. The maps are fairly good, but the colors are hard to see, and they do not indicate migration routes. The scale of the maps is adjusted to the range of a species.



The species accounts follow the plates and include text and a few line drawings. The species are numbered and the order is generally similar to that of the American Ornithologists' Union. An introductory paragraph gives synonyms for the vernacular names, which are sometimes different from those we are used to, and a sentence giving key features of the bird and its distribution. The rest of the text is divided into the following headings and subheadings: identification (bare parts), voice, habits, movements, description (breeding and non-breeding, juvenile), age/sex, races, measurements, and references. The discussion of field identification includes key features and comments about similar species. Many shorebirds have three distinct plumages: breeding (alternate), non-breeding (basic), and juvenal. The descriptions (as well as the illustrations of these plumages) make this book especially valuable. Many shorebirds are notorious long distance migrants and frequently wanderers. Juvenile birds are especially likely to be vagrants, but juvenal plumages have been neglected in many field guides. For certain problem groups of North American species there are still better and more complete references available, e.g. dowitchers (Wilds and Newlon 1983), yellowlegs (Wilds 1982), and peeps (Veit and Jonsson 1984), but this book appears to have incorporated much of the material from these articles. Sexual dimorphism, if any, is described, and the general measurements are given. The voice is described in detail.

The discussion of movements includes the breeding and wintering range, migratory paths, and a summary of vagrant occurrences. The vagrant records are often of great interest to shorebird enthusiasts, but usually only the country or state of occurrence is mentioned without any details of date or age of the bird. This is a minor disappointment. This worldwide reference book will not yield much information about the specific status or movements of shorebirds in Iowa. One must look to a source such as *Iowa Birds* (Dinsmore et al. 1984) for that kind of information.

The tables compare features of similar species. Those of greatest interest for North America include Golden-Plovers, Dowitchers, and peeps. The one page appendix contains some recent vagrant records. The book concludes with a bibliography and index. The species are indexed by both common and scientific name. Where the authors have chosen a common name other than that used by American birders, the more familiar term is also indexed. The bibliography appears complete, but I did note that the excellent article on peeps by Veit and Jonsson (1983) is not listed.

Several aspects of *Shorebirds* may prove to be a little disconcerting. First, some of the terminology is new for us. For example, instead of "basic" and "alternate" plumage the terms used are "adult non-breeding" and "adult breeding" plumage. The British usually use the term "wader" instead of "shorebird." The terms *juvenile* (a noun) and *juvenal* (an adjective) are not always used correctly. A bird in *juvenal* plumage is a *juvenile*. Another drawback for some will be the use of unfamiliar species for comparison; for example, Greater Yellowlegs is compared to Greenshank and Redshank. Some familiar birds will have unfamiliar names. The Black-necked Stilt (accidental in Iowa) is lumped with the worldwide Black-winged Stilt. Lesser Golden-Plover (common in Iowa) is renamed American Golden-Plover and is considered separate from the Pacific Golden-Plover of Asia, Alaska, and California. This distinction anticipates a future split by North American authorities.

*Shorebirds* is a smashing success. From the foreword to the extensive bibliography, the book is skillfully prepared. Any serious birder will want to have it. While the scale is worldwide, the value to Iowa birders lies in its unique coverage of every plumage variation of all of Iowa's shorebirds and potential vagrants.



### Literature cited

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Veit, R., and L. Jonsson. 1984. Field Identification of smaller sandpipers with the genus *Calidris*. Am. Birds 38:853-876.  
Wilds, C. 1982. Separating the Yellowlegs. Birding 14:172-8.  
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### THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA: A CRITICALLY EVALUATED LIST

Tanya E. Bray, Barbara L. Padelford, and W. Ross Silcock. Bellevue, NE: Published by the authors. 1986. 111 pp. Paperbound \$4.75. Available from Tanya Bray, 9708 Grover, Omaha, NE 68124, \$4.75 postpaid.

Reviewed by THOMAS H. KENT

This attractive, nicely printed booklet presents a new list of Nebraska birds and is based on the authors' extensive evaluation of existing evidence.

The introduction acknowledges all those who provided data and reviewed the manuscript, analyzes previous Nebraska lists, and describes in detail the methods and criteria used by the authors. One cannot help being impressed by the care and detail exhibited in the preparation of this book. The classification (regular, casual, accidental, extirpated, and extinct) and the firmness of data (Class I-VI) are the same as those used by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union Records Committee.

The main part of this paper-bound booklet is the species list. The classification is given for each species, and, for those with an acceptable record, at least one record is given (e.g., specimen, photograph, literature citation, or other evidence). All the acceptable records are listed for accidental species. Species that have been reported in Nebraska but for which there is no acceptable record are bracketed, and the reasons for non-acceptance discussed. The authors offer to provide a list of specific citations for all the records that they did not accept. An extensive bibliography at the end gives the sources of the records cited in the booklet. The last page contains a handy outline map of the counties of Nebraska.

This booklet provides a much needed critical list of Nebraska birds. The authors apparently undertook this project without sponsorship from the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union. The NOU formed a records committee after the work on this list was nearly completed. Although it would have been desirable that this work be done by a large group with official sponsorship, the authors have taken a very conservative view and set high standards for acceptance of records. This means that few of the accepted records are likely to be questioned in the future, and many old undocumented sightings can be set aside. The authors were well qualified for this task—Padelford and Bray are the second and third leading listers in Nebraska (*Birding* 18:128, 1986) and Silcock has had extensive experience with the IOU Records Committee. Further, it is clear that the authors spent a great deal of time tracking down and evaluating specimens and literature citations. There is little reason to believe that a larger group would have done a better job.

This list will be valuable to those interested in vagrants or those who bird

Nebraska. This booklet does not provide information on distribution or migration dates; We look forward to seeing that in the future.

The Nebraska list has 407 species compared to 371 for Iowa. The breakdown by category for the two states (Nebraska/Iowa) is as follows: regular - 290/284; casual - 35/16; accidental - 75/64; extirpated - 5/5; and extinct - 2/2. All of Iowa's regular species except Mute Swan have occurred in Nebraska, but in Nebraska 19 are casual (Tundra Swan, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Northern Goshawk, Short-billed Dowitcher, Glaucous Gull, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and White-winged Crossbill), 6 are accidental (Yellow Rail, King Rail, Common Moorhen, Pileated Woodpecker, Henslow's Sparrow, and Smith's Longspur), and 1 is extirpated (Ruffed Grouse). All of Iowa's casual species are on the Nebraska list where 8 are regular (White-faced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, Townsend's Solitaire, Great-tailed Grackle, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and House Finch) and 3 are accidental (Red-necked Grebe, Black Scoter, and Black-legged Kittiwake). Of Iowa's accidental species, 11 are not on the Nebraska list (Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Mew Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Black-backed Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, and Black-throated Gray Warbler), 13 are regular in Nebraska (Greater Prairie-Chicken, Whooping Crane, Rufous Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Pinyon Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Pygmy Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting), and 7 are casual in Nebraska (Mississippi Kite, Mountain Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Sprague's Pipit, Townsend's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, and Rosy Finch). The two states have 33 accidentals in common. Of Iowa's extirpated species, 3 are regular in Nebraska (Trumpeter Swan, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Long-billed Curlew).

Of 48 species recorded in Nebraska but not in Iowa, 9 are regular in Nebraska (Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, Western Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Violet-green Swallow, MacGillivray's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, and Cassin's Finch), 4 are casual (Gyr Falcon, California Gull, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, and Baird's Sparrow), 33 are accidental (Olivaceous Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Mottled Duck, Black-shouldered Kite, Harris' Hawk, Clapper Rail, Common Crane, Snowy Plover, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Iceland Gull, Ancient Murrelet, Common Ground-Dove, Boreal Owl, Calliope Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Steller's Jay, Chihauhaun Raven, Carolina Chickadee, Canyon Wren, American Dipper, Phainopepla, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Bunting, Brown Towhee, Cassin's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, and Lesser Goldfinch), and 2 are extirpated (Lesser Prairie-Chicken and Black-capped Vireo).

From this comparison it is easy to see the large number of western species that can be found in Nebraska. Some of the eastern woodland species are only casual in Nebraska. I was most surprised to see Gyr Falcon listed as casual. Also, I would have expected Short-billed Dowitcher, Baird's Sparrow, and Smith's Longspur to be regular.

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## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Springbrook State Park, 17 May 1986, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

FRANCIS L. MOORE, Secretary

*Members Present:* Ray Cummins, Jim Dinsmore (presiding), Phyllis Harris, Francis Moore, Bob Myers, Beth Prescholdt, Hank Zaletel

*Members Absent:* Carl Bendorf, Ross Silcock

*Minutes:* The minutes of 22 March 1986 were approved as circulated.

#### *Reports:*

Treasurer: Presented by Hank Zaletel and accepted.

#### *Old Business:*

1. Jim Dinsmore discussed the means by which the new Articles of Incorporation would be handled at the spring business meeting.
2. Dates for the fall meeting are set for 5-7 September 1986.

#### *New Business:*

1. An invitation from Bob Livermore to have the 1987 spring meeting at Sioux City will be presented to the membership.
2. The Nominating Committee appointed by President Bendorf (Hank Zaletel, chair, Beth Prescholdt, Ross Silcock) seeks suggestions for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Board of Directors (2) for the 1987 election.
3. Jim Dinsmore suggested that Philip DuMont be invited to attend and speak at the fall meeting.

### SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

Springbrook State Park, 17 May 1986, 3:35 to 5:00 p.m.

FRANCIS L. MOORE, Secretary

*Presiding:* Jim Dinsmore, Vice-President

*Minutes:* The minutes of the fall meeting were approved as published in *IBL*.

#### *Reports:*

Treasurer: The report was accepted as presented by Hank Zaletel.

Records Committee: A written report from the Secretary, Tom Kent, indicated that all 1985 records have been reviewed and a new Official Checklist of Iowa Birds—1986 Edition is being published in *IBL*.

Publications Committee: Jim Dinsmore, Chair, discussed changes in *Iowa Bird Life* and its editorship.

Membership Committee: Francis Moore, Chair, indicated that the committee had just met for the first time and requests input from members.

#### *Old Business:*

1. It was moved (Rick Hollis, seconded by Barb Wilson) to suspend the current Articles of Incorporation in order to consider new Articles of Incorporation as distributed (passed unanimously by show of hands). It was moved to adopt the new Articles of Incorporation (Hollis, seconded by George Crossley). It was moved to amend the articles as distributed (Barb Wilson, seconded by Jim Mairs) to replace the words "Court of Common Pleas" with the

words "District Court" in Section V (the amendment passed by unanimous voice vote). The motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

*New Business:*

1. Jim Sinclair discussed results of the Bird-a-thon.
2. Francis Moore described plans for the fall meeting at Waterloo.
3. It was moved (Wilson, seconded by Hollis) to accept an invitation presented by Bob Livermore to hold the Spring 1987 meeting at Sioux City.
4. Bob Cecil reported on an upcoming I.O.U. summer field trip to Shimek State Forest and Lacey-Keosauqua State Park on 7 June 1986
5. Rick Hollis moved (seconded by Bernie Knight) that a committee be appointed to write one or more units for school children on aspects of birds that fit into existing curricula (passed 18 to 5).
- 5). Rick Hollis, Bernie Knight, and Marie Spears responded to a request for volunteers.

*Elections:* Each available position was considered in turn, and there were no nominations other than those distributed by the Nominations Committee. The following were elected: Treasurer: Francis Moore; Secretary: Ann Barker; Board of Directors: Carol Thompson, Eugene Armstrong.

## BYLAWS OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE *(continued from page III)*

5. The committee should create an administrative position (Secretary) to manage the committee and its records. The Secretary shall be allowed to vote.
6. The committee may create and elect its own officers.
7. The committee by a two-thirds vote may recommend to the Board of Directors that a member be replaced for failure to review records or other cause.

*Committee Procedures:*

1. The committee may set up such procedures as are needed for its operation, as long as they do not conflict with the Constitution or the committee's bylaws.
2. The committee may recommend changes in its bylaws to the Board of Directors.
3. The committee may hold meetings as needed and/or conduct business by mail or phone. The Secretary or any three members may call a meeting.
4. The committee shall set up its own procedures for evaluation of records and publish them or any changes in them with their annual report.
5. The Secretary shall conduct meetings unless otherwise decided by the committee.
6. The Secretary shall serve at the pleasure of the committee. The position and performance of the person holding it should be reviewed at least every three years.

*Finances:*

1. The committee shall submit a prospective budget to the Board of Directors (via the President) prior to January of a calendar year.
2. No monies shall be expended beyond that approved by the Board or President acting for the Board.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for work on the committee. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to a committee member, relative, or friend shall be discussed and considered by the committee.
4. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to administrative positions established by the committee or persons appointed to these positions shall be discussed and considered prior to establishment of the position or appointment of the person. If such benefits are substantial or represent a significant conflict of interest, they shall have prior approval of the Board.
5. Ordinarily, members of this committee will not be reimbursed for their expenses related to the review of records; i.e., travel, telephone expenses, and ordinary mailing of reviews.
6. The Secretary or members sharing the functions of the secretary may be reimbursed for duplications costs, mailing, and incidental supplies.